



FILE: CO20.00.10

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ARAPAHO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
P.O. BOX 457
WALDEN, COLORADO 80480
(303) 723-8202

August 30, 1994

Mr. Terry McKee
US Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
Platte River Resident Office
9307 State Highway 121
Littleton, CO 80123-6901

Dear Mr. McKee:

I am writing to you in regards to two proposed wetland projects on the Robert Thompson ranch near Rand, Colorado that we at Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge are planning to undertake with funds from the Service's Private Lands Program. We conducted on site survey work for the two projects this past summer. I am writing to you for Mr. Thompson as he is a school teacher for the military and has returned to Germany for the school year. He does not plan on returning to his ranch until next June. If possible he would like us to complete the development projects yet this fall. I told him we could not do any work until all of the paperwork had been completed and approved.

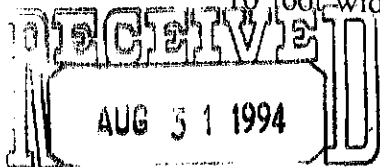
Project #1: This project basically involves the enlargement of an existing pond (.63 surface acres) by lengthening and raising an existing dike that is approximately 60 feet long, two feet high and 15 feet wide at the base. Also, an old deteriorated screw gate type of water control structure needs to be replaced.

The existing dike will be raised and extended to a total length of approximately 540 feet with a maximum height of five feet at the outlet and a top width of 10 feet. There will be a three to one slope on the upstream and downstream faces of the dike. The old water control structure will be replaced with a stop-log water control structure.

The extended dike involves an additional .48 surface acres of fill and an additional new pond acreage of .43 acres. When completed the enhanced pond will total 1.06 surface acres and average approximately 18 to 24 inches in depth.

The pond is located almost entirely in an irrigated and sub-irrigated meadow (wetland) draw and is fed by a small (less than one cfs) unnamed spring.

Project #2: This project involves the construction of a 155 foot long dike across a sagebrush (upland) draw. The dike will be approximately five foot high at the outlet and 10 foot wide on the top with a three to one upstream and downstream slope.

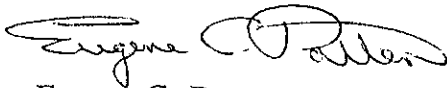


A stop-log water control structure will be included also. This new development will create a small wetland of approximately .25 surface acres with an average depth of 24 inches. Water to fill this new pond will come from spring run-off and possibly a irrigation ditch outlet.

Both of these projects are planned on the Robert Thompson ranch immediately southwest of Rand, Colorado. (See attached map). I have discussed with Mr. Thompson the possible water depletion aspect of the two projects and its potential adverse impact on endangered species and their habitats downstream in the North Platte River basin, particularly Nebraska. Mr. Thompson has other reservoirs on his property and has a irrigation water right in the Donaldson Ditch. He has agreed to replace any evapo-transpiration water losses resulting from these projects, as determined by personnel in our Water Resources Division in Lakewood, by either releasing additional water from other reservoirs or by reducing an equal amount of irrigation water use in the Donaldson Ditch and allowing that water to flow on downstream.

~~Terry, I would appreciate your review and response at your earliest convenience. I will transmit copies of all correspondence to Mr. Thompson in Germany.~~

Sincerely,

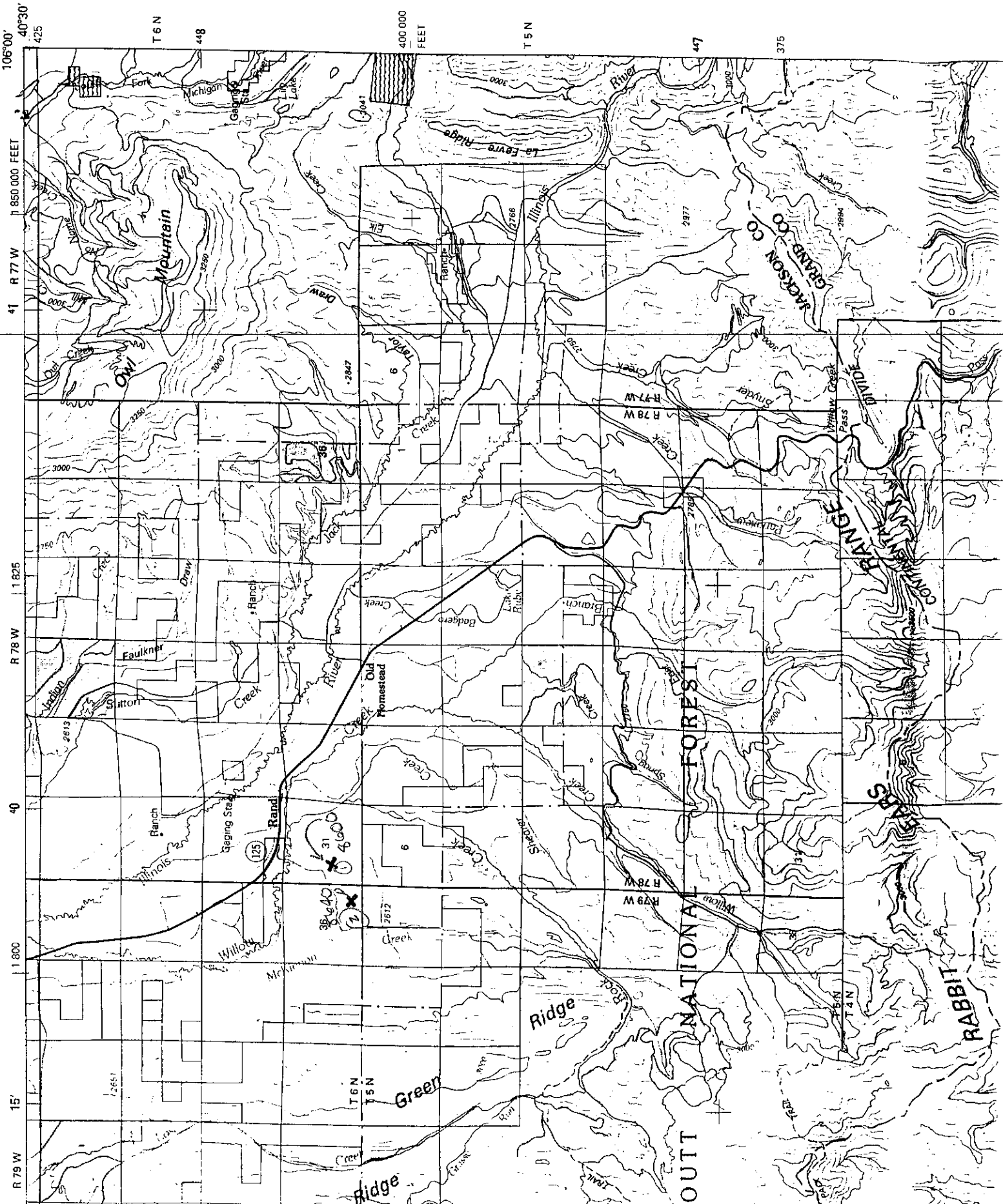


Eugene C. Patten
Refuge Manager

cc: Robert Thompson, PO Box 39, Rand, CO 80473
Bill Noonan, FWS Ecological Service, Golden, CO
✓ Meg Estep Johnson, FWS Water Resources, Lakewood, CO



30 X 60 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Meg,

When you have some time
could you determine the
estimated water loss from these
two ponds so that we can
properly address ES concerns.

Thanks,

Gene Patten